

Abstract of Disclosure

[0072] In a communication network system having a multi-switch Fibre Channel fabric, switches are in communication through a plurality of paths. To distribute the traffic load, more than one path can be used for any source-destination pair. However, due to limitations under the Fibre Channel standard, in-order delivery is required for certain data frames, such as those belonging to the same sequence or exchange. To avoid compromising the in-order requirement, a dynamic path selection scheme is devised. In one embodiment, a hash function is used to categorize data frames into sequences and to distribute the load in a pseudo-random manner. In another embodiment, a multiple-field routing table is used to assign arbitrary paths to different sequences.

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